THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 48. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :—

Miss N. L. Smyth,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, Feb. 14th, at 3 p.m.—Hyde Park—Miss Somers. Chair: Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—**Bow Baths Hall—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mr. Nevinson, Mrs. Walker, Mr. S. Franklin.**
Monday, Feb. 15th, 3 p.m.—Bow, Women's Hall.
8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Road—Miss Feek.
8 p.m.—East India Dock Gates.
8 p.m.—Hackney, Powerscroft Rd.
8 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall — General Members' meeting.
Tuesday, Feb. 16th, 8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Rd.—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Mrs. Drake
8 p.m.—53 St. Leonard St.—Mrs. Walshe.
Wednesday, Feb. 17th, 8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mrs. Drake.
Thursday, Feb. 18th, 3 p.m. — Deacon's Vestry—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Road—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
8 p.m.—Bow Obelisk—Mr. Mewett.
8 p.m.—Canning Town, Ordnance Road—Mrs. E. Duval.
Friday, Feb. 19th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall.—Miss Barry.
8 p.m.—Canning Town, Beckton Rd.—Mrs. Thomson.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Members' Meeting.
Saturday, Feb. 20th, 3 p.m.—Poster Parade starting from 55 Fife Road, Canning Town.

THE POPLAR SUFFRAGE CLUB,

20 Railway Street, Poplar, E., open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 7 to 10. All women welcome. Membership fee, 1d. a month. Members of the E.L.F.S. free.

We wish to appeal for books and illustrated papers for the Poplar Suffrage Club.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We urgently need subscriptions to help us to pay the heavy milk bill for our centres in Bow, Bromley, Poplar and Canning Town ; also gifts of :

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL AND MALT, GLAXO AND VIROL.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two nightgowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Doctor attendances and baby weighing—400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Mondays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 14 Butcher's Rd., Canning Town,

Mothers may have the leaflets on baby-feeding by applying at any of the centres.

OUR COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
20 Railway Street, Poplar.
53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley.

Two-course meals 2d. (children 1d.)
Soup 1d. a pint with a piece of bread.

Will you send us a gift of provisions to reduce our bills, which are growing rapidly with the rising prices ?

OUR FACTORY.

Price lists for our toys, garments and shoes may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Help us to produce skilled work at a living wage.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

BOW BATHS HALL,

ROMAN ROAD, E.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14th, 1915.

A LECTURE ON THE WAR

BY

Mr. H. W. NEVINSON,

The Famous War Correspondent.

Chair - - MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST

Supported by :
Mrs. WALKER and Mr. S. FRANKLIN.

PUBLIC MEETING

CANNING TOWN PUBLIC HALL,

SUNDAY, FEB. 21st, 1915, at 8 p.m.

Speakers :
Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST,
Councillor JACK JONES,
Music. Mrs. BOUVIER.

WHO SOLD CANADA'S GIFT.

The British Dominions overseas have each sent gifts of their produce to relieve the poor people of this country, during this time of European War. A part of Canada's gift consisted of a large quantity of potatoes. One hundred and seventy-five sacks of these potatoes were sent to the Royal Ophthalmic Hospital. A salesman in the Borough Market bought the rest. He was allowed to pick out the better potatoes. The quantity that he has bought is 100 tons, and men are now busily engaged emptying the potatoes from the sacks on which "Canada's Gift" is marked to private sacks.

We want to know who authorised the withholding of these potatoes from the poor? Who gave permission for the sale, and who is to have the money which the Borough salesman has paid?

What do the people of Canada think of this?

MINIMUM WAGE FOR WOMEN VOTERS.

We reported recently that the enfranchised women of Oregon had secured the passage of a law to make it a punishable offence to pay a woman less than a living wage.

A box manufacturer named Stetter in Portland Oregon has now challenged the legality of a time rate of 8 dols. 64 cents. (about 35s.) for a 50 hour week, which has been fixed under the minimum wage law. This will be a test case. Washington, which has recently fixed a minimum wage of 10 dols. (£2) a week for women and girl clerks, California and five other States have passed minimum wage laws and the decision in this Portland boxmaker's case will affect them all.

If Stetter wins an end will be made of United States minimum wage laws for the present. Only for the present however, for the judges of the American Supreme Court are elected officials. Moreover, the matter can be adjusted by Congress, and though women voters for Congress are as yet in a minority, as State after State extends citizenship to women, theirs is a growing force.

SOUTH WEST HAM BRANCH.

The South West Ham branch of the E.L.F.S., has just moved into larger premises, which consist of a shop, three rooms and kitchen. Its new address will be 55 Fife Road, Tidal Basin, E. The Federation earnestly asks for gifts of furniture for these new premises, in order that the expenses of supplying it may not come out of the funds. We specially need tables, chairs, a clock, coal scuttles, fire irons, hearth rugs, and washstand and crockery.

FAMINE PRICES IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY.

In the House of Commons on Thursday, the Labour Party moved the following resolution:—

That, in the opinion of this House, the present rise in the price of food, coal, and other necessities of life is not justified by any economic consequence of the War, but is largely caused by the holding-up of stocks and by the inadequate provision of transport facilities. This House is therefore further of opinion that the Government should prevent this unjustifiable increase by employing the shipping and railway facilities necessary to put the required supplies on the market, by fixing maximum prices and by securing control of commodities that are or may be subject to artificial costs.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

Mr. Asquith refused to do anything; said prices were lower than might be expected, and mocked the people by telling them to wait till June. He admitted that bread is 72 per cent., and sugar 72 per cent., higher than last year.

RESOLUTIONS passed by the Food Production Sub-committee of the Joint Food Supply Committee, to which 13 women's societies are affiliated :—

That the Board of Education should be asked to make practical horticulture a necessary part of the school curriculum. Either gardens or waste spaces should be obtained for this purpose for each school. The instruction to be given to both boys and girls. For training schemes, Government grants of stock, labour-saving appliances, allotments, etc., be made, and women's wages paid by the Central Unemployment Body.

Village industries of women be encouraged by the provision by the Government of training classes, and the supply of pans and apparatus for jam making, preserving, pickling, etc. By the issue of circulars relating to the care and culture of suitable fruit and vegetables, and cheap supply of good plants and seeds. That every encouragement be given to small farmers, and that other schemes be considered for the increase in the rearing of poultry.

That local markets and a cheap mail service be established for the transit of country produce to town markets.

That facilities be given for increasing the number of municipal dairies, and that the trained employment of women at equal wages with men be encouraged.

The above resolutions will be sent to the Board of Education, Local Government Board, Board of Agriculture, and Central Unemployment Body, with requests that each Board will receive a deputation as soon as possible.

The Joint Food Supply Committee are of opinion that schemes for employing women will form an alternative to proposals for increased child labour, and will be of great benefit to the country in case of food shortage through the War?

We demand that during the War the Government shall control the food supply, refusing to allow the prices to rise above normal, fixing the prices to be charged and the profits to be made by wholesale and retail dealers in consultation with representatives of women housekeepers, dealers, and workers. Working women must be placed on all committees for fixing food prices.

Towns' Meetings on Food Prices.

The practice of requisitioning the Mayor to call a Town's Meeting is more frequently resorted to in the north of England than in the London Boroughs, and Mayors and Councils in such places as Manchester, Liverpool, Bolton, or Bradford would hesitate before refusing to comply with requisitions sent in by the due number of ratepayers as, unfortunately, they too frequently refuse down here.

On February 4th, the Mayor of Liverpool held a Town's Meeting to consider the question of the food supply. The requisitions for the meeting were sent in by the Executive Committee of the Transport Workers' Federation and the Labour Members of the City Council, yet the meeting was called at 12.15 p.m., a time when but few of the workmen concerned were able to attend. For this reason, whilst the first resolution calling on the Government to set up machinery for drafting men from the ports where there is a surplus of Labour to those at which there is a shortage, was carried, because nobody objected to it, the second was lost.

This second resolution urged that the Government should obtain control of more ships and should itself bring wheat from Argentina and Canada at the bare cost of transport; that the Government should fix maximum coal prices, and also commandeer coal and distribute it to household consumers through municipalities and co-operative societies; that railway trucks should be pooled, and shipping rates should be fixed by the Government.

An amendment was carried expressing alarm at the increase in food prices, but declaring that the meeting desired to await the report of the Cabinet Committee on food prices.

The meeting ended somewhat abortively. It is a pity that the dockers' wives were not present in large numbers.

A majority vote of a Town's Meeting may demand that a poll of the citizens be taken on any important question, and, undoubtedly, a poll of the people, and especially of the women householders, on such an important matter as this of food prices would be immensely instructive and valuable just now. Moreover, the Government could hardly fail to bow to the wishes of the people if so expressed.

The West Ham Trades Council, the B.S.P., the I.L.P. and the Women's Labour League held a great meeting in Canning Town Public Hall, on February 10th, where the following resolution was carried:

"That failing the Government fixing the price of food and necessaries at the level in force on August 5th last, the Trade Unions declare the truce at an end, and immediately put in a demand for an increase of 2d. per hour on present rates of wages."

Similar resolutions were carried in Bow and Poplar.

THE TRUTH ABOUT FOOD.

The Board of Trade figures for last month regarding exports and imports show that the value of imported foodstuffs is over seven million pounds higher than it was in January, 1914. Part of this is accounted for by the rise in prices, and it will be seen from the table given below that, as in the case of butter, although there has been a decrease in quantity, there has been an actual increase in total value. But on the whole larger quantities of food-stuffs have been imported last month than were imported in January last year, which proves that famine prices are not accountable for by actual shortage of food. The case of wheat, and wheat flour is particularly interesting:—In January, 1915, 7,791,300 cwts. of wheat and 1,422,205 cwts. of wheat flour were imported, as against 7,232,600 cwts. of wheat and 1,181,406 cwts. of wheat flour in January, 1914, an increase of 558,700 cwts. and

WOMEN! JOIN THE
East London Federation of the Suffragettes —
WE NEED YOU!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose 1½d, to cover membership and postage.

I enclose 4s. 4d. for a year's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Name.....

Address.....

The Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

321 ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.

Telephone EAST 422.

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Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

No. 48.—Saturday, Feb. 13th, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

POOLING RESOURCES.

On Monday it was announced that the Ministers of Finance of Great Britain, France and Russia had met together, and had agreed in declaring that **the three Powers are resolved to unite their financial resources, equally with their military resources, for the purpose of carrying the War to a successful conclusion.**

As the *Manchester Guardian* says, the account of the arrangement is "not quite so clear as it might be, though it is very likely quite as clear as it is meant to be." It may be that the Governments of the Allies, as yet, themselves do not know precisely how far the financial alliance into which they have entered will extend, but, undoubtedly, they are resolved that, whilst even one of the three Powers still has financial reserves that may be brought forward, the struggle in which they are all three engaged shall not suffer for lack of money at any point.

The scheme is logical enough: surely no Nation need shrink from it that is offering up, without stint, its husbands, fathers, sons!

But when three peoples of different race, lately joined in "Entente," after long years of strife, can agree to pool resources, realising that the disabilities of one section must make for weakness in the whole combination, is it not strange that we as a Nation are so far from realising the same principle?

Food prices are still rising—even the *Daily Mail* admits that the cost of living has risen by six shillings in the pound, whilst the budget given by a Canning Town woman, in our last issue, showed an increase of 40 per cent. Since then bread has risen to 8d. a quartern in many districts, and will rise still higher, unless the Government will stop it.

The rise in prices could be stopped if, as a Nation, we would but throw all selfish sectional interests aside, and insist: that the Government should control the supply of necessaries for the general benefit.

Let us not shut our eyes to the fact that, just as the combined forces of a number of Nations fighting together must suffer loss if one of their number becomes crippled for lack of food for its troops or ammunition for its guns, so we as a Nation are now suffering a loss, which it will take generations to repair, from the semi-starvation of masses of our people. Railway men and other Trade Unionists, whose efforts to improve their industrial conditions were suspended at the outbreak of War, now find an increasing difficulty in making ends meet, and extensive strikes may be declared unless the Government acts soon.

In many other ways our Government shows itself unready to grasp the principal of national solidarity and to pool our collective resources. It refuses to call to its aid the help which women might give, as citizens, in directing the affairs of the Nation. A woman's committee with a strong majority of working women, (the most numerous of those concerned) would long ago have solved most of the troubles concerning the soldiers' and sailors' wives and relatives, and would certainly have prevented the cruelly prolonged delays in paying authorised allowances, which have brought untold hardship to countless women and children.

A sentence of four months' imprisonment, afterwards reduced to a month, was passed the other day on a Hornsey soldier's wife, who was alleged to have obtained £2 15s. on false pretence from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Association. No one appears to have been punished for the issue of untruthful recruiting posters, which have induced young men to enlist, in the belief that the War Office would provide for their mothers to the extent of 12s. 6d. a week if they themselves allotted 3s. 6d. No one has been punished for the scandalous delays which have caused the illness of many a soldier's wife and mother, and of many a soldier's child.

Mr. Tennant, the Under-Secretary of State for War, who presented the Army Estimates and made the recruiting speech for the Government in the House of Commons on February 8th, called for more women to take the places of men in carrying on the ordinary affairs of trade, in order that employers might release more men to go to the War. Mr. Tennant's appeal was not made to free patriotic women citizens—free women citizens have no existence in this country—but unemployed women wage earners; the sweated drudges of the labour market are to be found in any quantity.

Mr. Tennant's view of working women is obviously that of the most grasping employers, who regard them merely as tools for use when men's labour becomes too costly or too rare. Mr. Tennant's appeal was not to women, but to men Trade Unionists "to relax" their rules and regulations at this time. He admitted that the Factory Acts' regulations and rules, which were passed to protect the worker from evil conditions and peculiarly gross sweating, "have been largely abrogated already."

Earlier in the afternoon Mr. Harold Baker had announced a flat rate to be paid to contractors for Army clothing, but he refused to fix a flat rate to be paid to the women who do the bulk of the work. Yet it has been shown that whilst Government contractors get 28s. for a great coat, the price paid for the combined labour of fitters, machinists, finishers, pressers and buttonholers is only 2s. 3½d.

At the annual meeting of the Council of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies the other day the hope was expressed that the 10s. a week paid to women in the War relief workrooms would "not be sanctioned as a living wage for women in ordinary times." This is a danger which we of the E.L.F.S. have foreseen from the first, and it is for this reason that we have been most anxious that women should not be employed on War Relief work at less than a living wage. If women are to be hustled into all sorts of work at the wretched wage now obtaining, the entire standard of living for the majority of the people, which is already far too low, will depreciate.

It is vitally important that every woman shall refuse to do a man's work unless she gets a man's pay.

One of our readers has written, objecting to our comparison, made last week, between the 25s. pension of the disabled soldier and the 10s. pension of the young widow. "Is the young widow to do nothing all her life," it is asked, "but live on her pension?"

The system of pensioning off any young person under 35, whether man or woman, does not appeal to us. We should prefer a maintenance scholarship for a given period, with a technical training which would enable the recipient to earn a living wage. But the difficulty of obtaining decently paid work for women is very great because the custom of sweating women is all but universal.

But the Government has not adopted any system of maintenance scholarships for vocational training—it has decided to allot the widow a pension. If a pension be given, it should be enough to live on comfortably and certainly one cannot live in reasonable comfort on 10s. a week!

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

A correspondent points out that last week we stated that a sailor's wife is worse off than the wife of a soldier. Though it is true that in addition to the 6s. a week proposed by the Select Committee, the sailor makes an allotment, the allotment is not compulsory and the position of the sailor's wife is precarious, for if her husband fails to allot he. a minimum of 20s. a month, she gets no Government allowance whatsoever. Her allowance for her children is less than that of the soldier's wife for her children.

Mr. PECKSNIFF & SCHOOL MEALS

Perhaps few people realise the hardships which are being suffered by English women who are married to Germans or Austrians. Mrs. R., of Canning Town, is the daughter of a well-to-do shopkeeper, who died some time ago. Had he been alive he would have helped his daughter. She is married to a German who is interned. Through the Poor Law Authorities she gets 10s. a week for herself and 1s. 6d. a week for each of her six children, the eldest of whom is eleven years, and the youngest a baby of seven months old. It costs her a 3d. fare to go to the Workhouse for her allowance.

This is what her weekly budget was prior to the War:—

	s	d
Rent	5	0
Coals	3	0
Gas...	2	0
Meat & Vegetables	8	0
Tea	1	0
Sugar	1	6
Butter	1	0
Soap, etc.	2	6
Milk	1	0
Bread	5	0
Extras	4	0
	34	0

Her husband earned 36s. and only kept 2s. for himself.

This is her budget now:—

	s	d
Rent	5	0
Coals	1	0
Gas...	1	0
Meat & Vegetables (Sunday only)	2	0
Tea	0	10
Sugar (for baby only)	0	3½
Margarine... ...	1	0
Soap, etc.	2	0
Milk	0	4
Bread	4	0
Extras	1	6½
	19	0

As you will see, the baby alone of all the family has sugar, and meat can only be afforded on Sundays. As the mother has lost her own milk, through her privations, the baby is only kept alive because the mother is able to obtain milk for it from the local branch of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

The children attend ordinary day school, but are not allowed to have school dinners, as that is the rule with children whose fathers are Germans. Strange, is it not, that these children can learn side by side with the other children, and can play with them, but may not eat with them?

English Children.

The school authorities in South West Ham district are very harsh also in their treatment of English children. Mrs. P. is in necessitous circumstances and has four little girls who ought to be receiving school meals, but as the Shipman Road School, which they ought to attend, is too crowded to receive them, they cannot have school meals. The Care Committee has been approached, but the reply is that as the children are not using their brains they do not need the food.

The Dinner Hour.

The alteration of the school dinner hour from 12 noon till 1.30 p.m. to 11.30 a.m. till 12.30 p.m. is causing great hardship in East London.

Feeding of children and the question of coping with distress generally ought not to be left to private agencies; but when public authorities fail to rise to the situation it is necessary that private organisations should step into the breach. Therefore, we urgently need more money for our free milk distribution and our "Cost-Price" Restaurants, where two-course meals for grown-ups may be had for 2d., and children at 1d.; and where free meals may be given when necessary.

DEFENCE OF THE REALM ACT.

The Government announces that the Defence of the Realm Act is to be amended. It is a curious fact that though women have been most frequently and most dangerously attacked under this Act, its action in regard to women was not once mentioned when the Act was debated in the House of Commons—another proof of our need for the Vote!

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.

Miss Metcalfe 10.0.0, Miss K. Raleigh 1.10.0, Miss M. R. Mackenzie 1.0.0, Mrs. Buckley 1.0.0, Anon 1.0.0, R.S.P.U. Social 10.0, Mrs. and Miss Swift 5.0, Miss E. Gore Browne 5.0 (monthly), Miss E. Marden 2.0, Miss L. Cutten 1.0, Mrs. Morley Davies 5.0 (monthly) DREADNOUGHT FUND 6.1.0—Miss M. R. Mackenzie 2.0.0.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS:—Anon 6.0.0 (fortnightly), Miss Winifred Mudie 5.0.0, Miss F. Lowy 2.5.0 (5.0 monthly), Mrs. Sadd Brown 2.0.0, Suffragettes B'ham Telegraph Dept. 2.0.0, Messrs. J. Gliksten & Son 2.0.0 (monthly) Miss M. Gliksten 1.17.0, Mrs. Baillie Weaver 1.10.0 (monthly), Mrs. M. K. Richardson 1.1.0, Ideal Film Renting Co. 1.1.0, Mrs. L. F. Jacobs 1.1.0, R. Buckley, Esq. 1.0.0, Mrs. Dalby 1.0.0, T. Stenhouse, Esq. 1.0.0, Mrs. Cockshutt 1.0.0, J. R. Mudie, Esq. 1.0.0, Mrs. E. Edwards 1.0.0, Miss E. M. Adkins 1.0.0, Mrs. Warden 1.0.0, Miss C. L. Collier 1.0.0 (monthly), Miss F. M. Collier 1.0.0 (monthly), The Misses Glicksten 1.0.0, Mrs. Parr 13.0, Sale of Toys, Hampstead Town Hall 11.10½, Miss H. E. Raisin 10.0, W. Green, Esq. 10.0, Miss E. Finke 10.0, Mrs. J. C. Miller 10.0, Miss M. Durrant 10.0, Ernest Bromfield, Esq. 10.0, Miss Yeoman 10.0 (weekly), Miss M. R. Mackenzie 10.0, Mrs. Thompson 10.0, Mrs. F. Smith 10.0, Per Mrs. Green, C.S.S. Society, Threadneedle 10.0, F.H.L. 10.0, J. W. Potter, Esq. 10.0, The Misses Smith 10.0 (monthly), Miss Abbott 10.0, E. A. D. White, Esq. 10.0, Miss E. Hancock 10.0, Mrs. Empson 10.0, Miss L. Hilyer 10.0, Anon, Hornsey 10.0 (weekly), Per W. J. Sandwell, Esq. 10.0, Julius Singer, Esq. 5.3½, Railway Women's Guild, Southall 8.0, Miss H. Horlow 5.0, Mrs. F. E. Smith 5.0, Anon 5.0, Miss M. A. Barker 5.0, Mrs. Paterson 5.0, Mrs. Paterson 5.0 (monthly), Misses Bellamy & Sanderson 5.0, Miss M. L. Clark 5.0, Mrs. L. Taylor 5.0, Mrs. Langden 5.0, Misses Barrowman 5.0, Gilbert T. Moore, Esq. 5.0, Mrs. R. J. Girling 5.0, Mr. & Mrs. Reynolds 5.0, Miss C. Hopkins 5.0 (monthly), Mrs. & Miss Gaul 5.0, Anon per Miss N. Picton 5.0, Mrs. Warden 5.0, Sale of Toys, Old Kent Rd. 4.1½, Miss C. E. John 3.6, Miss C. Hopkins 3.0, H. Smalley Esq. 2.6, Miss Dewney 2.6, M.G. 2.6, Miss K. Sargent 2.6, Mrs. Hylda Ball 2.6, D. Wilkie, Esq. 2.6, Per Miss F. M. Collier 2.6, Miss H. Martin 2.6, A Working Woman 2.6, Miss Putnan 2.6, Mrs. Foster 2.0 (monthly), Miss Broburn 0.6, Miss I. Jones 2.0 (weekly), R. H. Pott, Esq. 1.0, Mrs. Powles 2.0 (weekly), Mrs. Richmond 5.0 (weekly), Miss Brabner 0.6.

CLOTHES—Miss M. H. Skeat, Mrs. B., Mrs. Royle Richmond, Mrs. Waring Smyth, Miss Havers, Miss E. Canning, Miss V. Warren, Miss Roberts, Miss Floyd, Mrs. Mills, Miss K. Hazel, Miss Isa Campbell, Misses Hancock.

COLLECTING BOXES—MILK DAYS.

BOW.—Miss Mary Carr 16.1½, Miss Rose Pengelly 13.5, Mrs. Crabb 13.3½, Miss Manicom 7.0½, Miss Marks 5.10, Miss Burgess 5.5, Miss Oliver 3.11½, Miss Watts 2.10½, Mrs. Farrall 2.7½, Mrs. Savoy 2.0, H. Smalley, Esq. 2.0, Mrs. Pascoe 1.4½, Mrs. W. Lansbury 5.1½, Mrs. Simmonds 1.6½, Mrs. Clarke 3.2, Miss Rutter 3.9—Total 4.9.6½

POPLAR.—Mrs. Bird, 18.3½, Mrs. Drake 11.10, Miss K. Lagsding, 9.1, Miss C. Dent and C. Lagsding 2.5—Total 2.1.7½

CANNING TOWN.—Two Friends 10.0½, Miss Beamish 6.5, Mrs. Kuhn 4.0, Mrs. Murray 3.1½, Mrs. Reiff 2.4, Mrs. Tidmarsh 2.3½, Mrs. Brown 2.0½, Mrs. Mears 0.11, Mrs. Thompson 6.9, Mrs. Holt 6.6½—Total 2.4.5½

BROMLEY.—Per Mrs. McCheyne 15.8½

(Continued from front page.)

240,799 cwts. respectively. The prices paid show a far greater variation, as might be expected. The value of imported wheat and wheat flour together was £3,467,211 in 1914; in 1915 it was £5,431,490. If prices had remained stationary the value of the wheat and wheat flour imported last month would have been rather less than £3,800,000; that is to say £1,631,490 *increased profit* has gone into somebody's pocket for one month's imports. Even allowing for the increased price of stores and the scarcity of labour, it is certain that growers and shipowners have made enormous profits out of the exceptional conditions to which the European War has given rise. As to the shortage of shipping, the increased quantity of food stuffs imported certainly suggests to the lay mind that this factor has been exaggerated by interested persons!

Table showing increase or decrease in quantity and value of imported foodstuffs for January, 1915:—

Article.	Increase or decrease per cent. compared with January, 1914. Quantity.	Value.
Bacon	+ 7·4	+ 15·2
Beef—fresh	− 26·2	+ ·3
Butter	− 13·4	+ 1·5
Margarine	+ 27·1	+ 34·9
Cheese	+ 20·1	+ 37·8
Coffee	+ 50·6	+ 39·7
Corn—Wheat ...	+ 7·7	+ 56·6
Wheat Flour	+ 20·3	+ 56·8
Barley ...	− 34·0	− 21·7
Oats	− 65·4	− 46·5
Indian Corn ..	+ 154·8	+ 226·9
Eggs	− 22·4	− 9·1
Lard	− 8·6	− 8·4
Meat—preserved ...	+ 93·0	+ 173·5
Mutton—fresh ...	− 11·2	+ 5·2
Rice	+ 159·2	+ 145·1
Sugar—refined ...	− 33·0	+ 22·3
Do. —raw	+ 61·4	+ 229·3
Tea	+ 68·8	+ 73·7

SIDELIGHTS ON DEARER MILK.

The North Berks branch of the National Farmers' Union, at a recent meeting explained in one of its resolutions that "there has been a very marked advance in the prices of all feeding stuffs, while labour is becoming exceedingly scarce and dear. *On account of this a large number of dairy cattle are being rapidly fattened and slaughtered.*" This is "business as usual" with a vengeance! At one stroke the dairy farmer, instead of employing women dairy-hands for the men he has lost, kills some of his cattle, obtaining phenomenally high prices for them on account of the inflated market, and, by reducing the supply of milk, obtains a higher price for the output of his remaining stock. Already milk is 4½d. and 5d. a quart.

An official of the Metropolitan Dairymen's Society, when interviewed on the subject, is reported to have said: "Should the farmers in any large numbers decide to fatten their cattle and use them for beef, the results will be far-reaching, not merely now, but in the future, because it takes almost four years to make a milking cow."

Unfortunately no law can touch the farmer, but the death of many and many a baby will be laid at his door.

The next wheat crop in Australia "under special Government encouragement," will be the largest ever sown. And unless the poor women who have to pay for every rise in food prices, make a firm stand, the profits to the capitalists will be the largest ever reaped.

A VICTORY.

Mr. Jenkinson, whose letter we published in the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT dated February 6th, now writes to say that the suggestion that he made in regard to finding accomodation for the Saffron Walden children who were turned out of school to make way for the troops, has been adopted. The Bishop of Chelmsford has sanctioned the use of Saffron Walden Church as a day school, and a local chapel has also been thrown open for this purpose.

The Bishop of Chelmsford has set an example which other Bishops may well follow as the need arises, and parents who find their children turned out like those of Saffron Walden, should make a like demand.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Army Contracts.

On February 8th, Mr. Harold Baker, the Financial Secretary to the War Office, announced in the House of Commons that a flat rate for Army clothing had been fixed, in agreement with the Wholesale Clothiers' Association, as follows:—

	s	d
Great Coats ...	28	0
Jackets	12	6
Trousers	8	9
Pantaloons	18	6

But when Mr. Touche suggested that the War Office should fix a minimum amount to be paid in wages on each garment, Mr. Baker declined to agree. He was not satisfied that any case for doing this had yet been made out.

The women who are employed on Army clothing know that there is a good case waiting to be stated. Let them get together and formulate their demands for the abolition of sweating and a fair share of the profit they produce!

The *Daily Citizen* gives the wages paid by Army contractors as follows:—

	Great coats s. d.	Jackets s. d.	Trousers. s. d.
Fitting (men)	0 2	0 2½	
Machining (75 p.c. women) ...	1 1½	1 3	0 3½
Finishing (women & girls) ...	0 0½	0 4½	0 2½
Pressing (50 p.c. men)	0 3½	0 2½	0 1½
Buttonholing (women & girls)	0 2½	0 1½	0 0½
	2 3½	2 1½	0 7½

A girl earns 16s. in a 55 hour week!

Soldiers' and Sailors' Relatives.

On February 8th, Sir Edward Carson asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether separation allowances are payable in respect of the step-children of a soldier serving in the Army when such step-children are living with his wife and are dependent on him. Mr. Harold Baker said yes, provided "that the wife is entitled to separation allowances and that the step-children are legitimate." Surely it can be no business of the War Office whether the step-children are legitimate or illegitimate—they are children whom the soldier has thought fit to support and that ought to be enough. Surely the children should not be punished because their mother was not legally married to her former husband. Moreover the fact that they have legally never had a father, and have less chance of help or inheritance from their father's family than other children, makes their need the greater. Cannot some member of Parliament be found to make a stand on behalf of such children?

On February 3rd, Mr. Bridgman asked the Financial Secretary to the War Office why a soldiers' wife who before her husband's enlistment lived in Shropshire, and has now moved to London, is refused the 3s. 6d. extra London rent allowance. Mr. Baker replied: "The extra allowance was a concession to those who were living in London on mobilisation, and it was not considered necessary to give it to those who might move subsequently to London of their own choice."

We were under the impression that this 3s. 6d. extra was intended to meet the higher cost of London rents, not as a "concession" or favour, to people who happened to live in London on any given date. To be logical, the War Office must see to it that those who were living in London on mobilisation and move away later shall continue to receive the extra 3s. 6d. But we are fairly safe in concluding that this is not what Mr. Baker meant!

In any case it would be fairer, obviously, to pay 3s. 6d. extra to all those who are living in London whenever they may have come.

On February 8th, Mr. Barnes informed the First Lord of the Admiralty that stoker Thompson of the "Challenger" had been invalided home with paralysis in October last, and that anxiety as to how he and his family were to live on his pension of £37 7s. caused him to commit suicide. Dr. Macnamara said that if the facts were as stated, Thompson's widow would receive a pension, according to the White Paper scale of November last, *i.e.*, 7s. 6d. a week with 5s. for the first and 2s. 6d. for each subsequent child.

On February 8th, Dr. Macnamara stated that the widow of a dockyard-man called up for service and killed in action will be eligible for 26 weeks' separation allowance and allotment, and afterwards a pension on the same scale as though her husband had been a sailor. In addition, if she be the legal personal representative of an established workman, she is eligible for the same award under the Superannuation Acts as though her husband had died of natural causes. If she be the dependent of a hired workman she *may* get a gratuity under Section 3 of the Superannuation Act, 1914.

In the House of Commons on February 8th, the attention of Mr. Harold Baker was drawn to the case of Private Hugh Watt, Highland Light Infantry, who enlisted on the understanding that his foster-mother, who was entirely dependent on him, should have a dependent's allowance. The Perth Pensions Committee decided that she should have 12s. 6d. a week, but the Army Pay Office refused to pay it, and Mrs. Watt's only income was, therefore, the 3s. 6d. that her foster son allotted her. Mr. Baker said that the allowance might be granted under the new definition of dependence proposed by the Select Committee, but in any case no arrears would be paid.

In the House of Commons on Feb. 4th, the Postmaster General was asked to reduce the postage on parcels sent to the troops in France. He replied: "The difficulties of dealing with the mails may be inferred from the fact that there are now about 300,000 letters and 18,000 parcels, or a gross weight of approximately 40 tons, dispatched from this country to the Expeditionary Force every day."

As a rule carriage and everything else is cheapened for quantities.

Asked whether he would recommend an increase in the wages of temporary postmen getting 22s. a week, owing to the high cost of living—Mr. Hobhouse, the Postmaster General, said pompously "I am considering whether any improvement in the wages of temporary postmen at Shrewsbury and other similar towns is warrantable."

We should like to ask whether the 22s. wage and the high cost of living are "warrantable"?

The Scandal of Child Labour.

Sir Harry Verney, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury, stated in Parliament on February 8th, that only 10 or 12 per cent. fewer agricultural labourers are at work now than last year, yet the demand for child labour on the land, and in certain factories is being conceded in district after district. Mr. Pease, the President ot the Board of Education and Mr. McKenna, the Home Secretary make elusive replies to questions on this subject, and endeavour to thrust their responsibility on to the shoulders of the local education authorities, who are largely composed of the very farmers and manufacturers concerned. Letters addressed by the Board of Education to the Local Authorities state that:—

"The Board has no power to give directions over-riding the law with regard to school attendance and the employment of children, but the local authority is under no obligation to take proceedings for non-attendance." But, as Mr. Mundella of the National Education Association points out, Parliament in framing the Education Acts contemplated such excuses as illness, but not that of employment for wages. Moreover any person employing a child under 14 years who has not reached the standard of attendance or attainment prescribed by law is liable on summary conviction to a penalty of 40s. Therefore, until a new law has been passed, it is the duty of the local education authority to prosecute, and if they fail to do so, the Board of Education may compel them to fulfil this duty.

The Salford Education Committee's sub-committee on Juvenile Employment, recently presented a report in regard to 2,363 school children who are employed for wages out of school hours. Some of these children are employed more than 60 hours a week! The report which recommended that the employment of children under 11 should be prohibited, and that no child under 14 attending school should be employed more than 20 hours a week, was received with hostility and rejected. The Chairman condemned the proposals as "grandmotherly," and a Councillor urged that they should be "cremated."

THE WAY TO PEACE.

C. A. de Jong van en Donk-Kluyver, a Dutch women, writing in *Jus Suffragii* for February, says that women, like herself, who live in neutral countries, may rejoice at the fact that in the many publications of the belligerent nations, pride in having made the War, and the desire to make it last a long time is not expressed, and that where expressions of such pride are quoted, it is not in the country of those by whom they are alleged to have been uttered, but in opposing countries; thus more is heard of Bernhardi's sayings in England than in Germany. She says that whilst it is too hard a task for neutrals to inquire into all the details of the past, and to predict on which side the military and economic forces will prove to be the greater, it is a hopeful fact that the peoples of all the nations engaged believe that they have been compelled to draw the sword in defence of home and country, declare their War to be a defensive one, and repudiate the idea of waging a war of aggression. She says that neutrals feel that when peace is arrived at:—

"Either by two parties, of which one has been defeated and the other has won, or by two parties who have stopped the War because they could not finish it, the conditions of peace must be made such that they contain the principles of a better international relationship than existed before the War."

She urges that we must all prepare for peace now, to provide against a future war. She asks:—

"Must we wait till the time for peace negotiations has come, and then leave it to the same diplomacy which has already failed in preventing the present War, to provide against a future war? Should not, on the contrary, every individual that has learnt by this dreadful lesson how great is the interdependence between the whole of mankind, try to express his own wishes in this peace settlement?"

She urges that the European "balance of power" is a danger. That what is needed is a "United States of Europe," and that the system of "alliances" and "ententes" of secret treaties and understandings built around us by diplomacy must be replaced by an international policy dictated by the people.

With regard to the transfer of provinces, she says:—

"In these days, in which our feelings of patriotism and nationality have risen to such a high degree, it seems to us almost an axiom that no province should be transferred from one government to another without the consent of its own population. Although there may be many difficulties of detail in its application, the general principle seems to us so clear that we can hardly believe that any of the belligerent powers could oppose it."

She urges that the theory that huge armaments are the best safeguard against war has been proved to be false, and that the economic sacrifices made by the nations for the upkeep of these armaments have been in vain.

"Now, militarism has to be considered as the common enemy of all the nations together. Instead of relying any more on the Roman saying, ***Si vis pacem, para bellum***, they must remember that 'armies may destroy armies, but that no army ever broke militarism,' and they must unite all together against that common enemy in another way."

She calls for drastic reduction of armaments by international agreement, nationalisation of armaments, and free trade by international agreement.

These, she says, should be the cardinal points of a strong international peace movement. In Holland the various peace societies have formed the "Nederlandsche Anti-Oorlog Raad" (Dutch Anti-War Council), in which more than 300 societies have joined, and more than 10,000 individuals, men and women, of many parties and religions, are giving financial and other aid.

The writer urges, in conclusion, that "Votes for Women" should be the device of every true pacifist. Women she says "were involuntarily outsiders in the politics of the past." As a neutral she appeals to the women of warring nations not to look upon each other as enemies:—

"We pray you to show your own goodwill in putting together your efforts and those of your so-called 'enemies' for rebuilding a new world of better mutual understanding, in which international relationship will be founded on principles of the same morality as we are used to respect in the relations between individuals."

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

Organiser: MISS MANICOM, 321 Roman Rd.

Mrs. Walshe and Mr. Duval gave most interesting speeches at the Women's Hall, Old Ford Road, last Sunday evening. Will members please help with the chalking and billing for next week as we want to make this meeting a great success. The Monday afternoon meeting is very good. Tea is served during the afternoon, and it is much appreciated by the members. We still have room for more friends, and all are welcome. The monthly subscriptions are now due. If you have not paid, please pay as soon as possible. You can pay what you like. The minimum is 1d. a month.

We are very grateful to members who collected for the babies' milk last Saturday and Sunday. We are glad to find that our members did not think of their own comfort first, but collected in spite of the rain. Who will try again next Sunday, and try to get more? Miss Burgess has kindly promised to sell alternate Sundays at the Brotherhood Church, Southgate Road. Will someone volunteer for every other Sunday afternoon?

We gladly welcome Mrs. Tollan as an open-air speaker and wish her every success.

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
Organiser: MRS. DRAKE.

Subscriptions for the month of January amounted to 12s. 3d. This can easily be made into £1 for February, and I am sure the members will take a pleasure in doing this. If any member will volunteer to collect subscriptions from her friends, I will provide her with a subscription book.

Now that the weather is getting better you must try to attend the open-air meetings more. Do not think that as you are converted it does not matter, you are to go further and take the chair occasionally to make this a genuine working women's movement.

Many members who meant to go lobbying on Tuesday were disappointed to learn that the House rose early. Those who went in the afternoon made it quite clear that we are on the war path still.

Dr. Royle who has been attending here on Mondays, was married on Wednesday, February 3rd, at St. Peter's, Cornhill. The patients who have received her skilful treatment subscribed towards a present for her. This was a hand painted table centre. Dr. Royle says she will treasure the present very much and always think of the givers. Nurse Wolfe chose the present and made the presentation. Good meetings held in Chrisp Street on Wednesday, speakers Miss Feek and Miss Beamish. Friday, Mrs. Thomson. The Suffrage Club has been well attended. The Chrisp Street stall will be out every Saturday in future 10.30 to 12.30 and 3 to 7 p m. Volunteers please! Who will take six copies of paper regularly?

Dreadnoughts sold, week ending Feb. 6th 162, make it 200 next week! Mrs. Schlette sold 50.

Distributors—Mrs. Schlette, Mrs. Giles, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Churcher, Mrs. Burgess.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—55 Fife Road, Tidal Basin.
Hon. Sec.—MRS. DAISY PARSONS, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

Last Monday's meeting was addressed by Mrs. Bouvier and Mrs. Brown kindly met her and sold papers, etc. Members will see that we have now a new address and that we are very short of furniture. Could friends give us tables, chairs, a clock, coal scuttles and fire irons, rugs or other things that would make the shop and rooms comfortable? Also members are asked to call in if they have even only half an hour to spare, to help in bill distribution, paper selling or canvassing. Will some more friends volunteer for "speaker's class," and we have only five names for French class? All members are thanked who have taken collecting boxes. Thursday's meeting was well attended and all enjoyed Mr. Kennedy's speech. Mrs. Barritt was welcomed as a new member, she was at her first meeting and volunteered to go "lobbying." Do not forget Feb. 21st, (Sunday), when we are having Public Hall meeting. Miss S. Pankhurst and Jack Jones are speaking and the Hall must be packed the same as it used to be when we had a "mouse."

130 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Feb. 6

BROMLEY.

Joint Hon. Secretaries:
Mrs. MCCHEYNE & Mrs. MANTLE,
53 St. Leonard Street.

Good meeting held last Tuesday, speaker, Mrs. Bouvier. Members please note, that in future the meetings will be held every week, instead of once a fortnight, and make this known to all their friends.

Members are reminded that the General Meeting of the Federation will be on Monday next, at 8 p.m. at 400 Old Ford Road when all should be present.

How many members will be regular paper sellers and take collecting boxes?

OTHER SOCIETIES.

R. S. P. U.

Hon. Sec.—J. W. BONARIUS, 89 Wyke Road.

We are arranging to hold joint social with E.L.F.S., Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, Saturday, March 6th, 8 p.m. in aid of babies' milk fund. Joint committee to meet next Tuesday, 400 Old Ford Road, 8 p.m.

NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

Hon. Sec.: MR. H. G. EVERETT.
c o Mr. Innes, 31 Balmes Road, Southgate Road.

Members please note we have changed our address to above, to which all correspondence should be sent.

Many thanks to Mr. Clifford-Rowe for kindly speaking at very successful meeting — Finsbury Park. Meeting as usual next Sunday.

Members please keep in mind the lobbying campaign to be held shortly. Also big Public Meeting at which Miss Sylvia Pankhurst has very kindly promised to speak.

ALL THE WORLD OVER.

A GERMAN WOMAN'S MESSAGE.

Millions of women's hearts blaze up in anguish. No human speech is rich enough to express such depths of suffering. Shall this war of extermination go on? Women of Europe, where is your voice? Are you only great in patience and suffering? The earth reeking of human blood, the millions of wrecked bodies and souls of your husbands, sweethearts and sons, the outrages inflicted on your sex. Can these things not rouse you to blazing protest? In South Europe men have come together to exchange words of peace. In North Europe men have met to work for peace. Women of Europe, where is your voice, that should be sowing seeds of peace? Do not let yourselves be deterred by those who accuse you of weakness because you wish for peace, who say you will not hold back the bloody march of history by your protest. Strive at least to put a spoke in the bloody wheel of Time, with strength, courage and humanity, worthy of your sex.

Come together in the North or South of Europe, protest with all your might against this war, which is murdering the nations, and make preparations for peace, return to your own country and perform your duty as wives and mothers, as protectors of true civilisation and humanity.

LIDA GUSTAVA HEYMANN,
Munich..

The Hungarian Suffragists have written to *Jus Suffragii* that the paper brings them with it a glimmer of hope for a better future. They say "It is our sole consolation to have sympathetic sisters all over the world."

The English Colony in Budapest have made two collections in aid of the Hungarian Red Cross, in grateful acknowledgment of the kindness towards them of the Hungarian people, although they are unfortunately "alien enemies" there at present.

The French Colony in Budapest, through the American Ambassador, has petitioned the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, asking for the same good treatment for Hungarians in France that the French enjoy in Hungary.

FRENCH MOTHER'S BITTER CRY.

The humblest cry can sometimes be heard joined to many others, and surely public opinion cannot approve of this butchery going on all through the winter.

My two sons are in the trenches since the end of September, and have never slept in a bed since. It would be nothing if the cold had not set in so dreadfully, but it is to be feared not many will survive, as they have nothing to protect them in the night. AND THINK WHAT IT MUST BE IN RUSSIA.

Will there be no truce even during the coldest winter months? And will the civilized world quietly contemplate the miserable end of thousands of fine young men condemned to die of cold in the trenches or drag on a wretched life like those we saw in 1870—helpless cripples, their frozen limbs amputated.

It is very well for gentlemen banquetting at Guildhall to rejoice at being able to assemble so comfortably during the greatest War in history, thanks to the British Navy, which defends the coast; but they should think of those who are exposing their lives, not only to the bullets, but to the dreadful winter which threatens to destroy them.

If you cannot make peace at present, at least make a truce and save thousands and thousands of human lives, and receive the blessings of thousands of wives and mothers.

ACTIVITIES OF RUSSIAN WOMEN.

The news that is constantly coming to this country of Russian women, is that many have served as soldiers, performing deeds of heroism; others, equally brave and devoted, as nurses. They organise the provision of necessaries for the troops and relieve the distressed. Poor peasant women contribute homespun linen, which is made by other women of the villages into clothing. Dining rooms, creches, milk depots, baby clinics, lying-in homes for soldiers' wives and mothers are being organised everywhere by women, who are throwing their energies into the work of helping their nation.

THE FOOD PROBLEM ABROAD.

The *Manchester Guardian* reports that French people in the neighbourhood of Namur are obliged to pay 3s. 8d. per lb. for flour. Many poor people can only save themselves from starvation by begging bread from the German soldiers. Some prefer to starve.

The Government of Luxemburg is importing foodstuffs and making regulations to prevent gambling in food prices.

It is reported that bacon is to be municipalised in Germany and that private individuals may no longer trade in it.

A STEP FORWARD IN AMERICA.

In Seattle, the capital of the State of Washington, U.S.A., where women vote, Miss Reah M. Whitehead has been elected Justice of the Peace, and is to try criminal cases against women.

A LESSON IN DEMOCRACY.

Experiences of Dr. Kate Davis who has been appointed Chief Commissioner of both men's and women's prisons in New York State.

With acknowledgements to the Woman's Journal.

"For 13 years I was at the head of a reformatory for women from 16 to 30 years, who had broken all the laws. We had complete self-government for the girls in one cottage, and partial self-government in another. In the rest they were under the matrons and other officers.

"One day I held a conference with the girls in regard to extending the system. Every girl in the honour cottage favoured self-government. So did those in the cottage where they had partial experience of it; but only a minority of those in the other cottages voted for it. I asked them to tell me honestly their real reasons for voting 'No'. Some of them said: 'Women should not rule women; it is not natural.' Others said: 'The officers are paid to manage this institution. Why should the bother and responsibility be put on us? We are all on a level here, all of us are prisoners. If some are put over the rest of us, they will show partiality; they will favour their friends and be hard on those whom they do not like.' I said: 'Girls, it is evident you are not yet prepared to live in a democracy.' I supposed that it was because they were women and were not accustomed to voting. I had not then had my present large experience of men.

"Some time after I had been put in charge of the prisons in New York City, there was a riot in the penitentiary. In order to get at the causes of it, I went over and lived there. I found that many of them were opposed to the idea of general self-government for the prisoners, and they gave just the same reasons as the girls in the Bedford reformatory. Yet these men had all been voters before they were sent to prison, except the few who were unnaturalised foreigners.

"At Vassar College the students have partial self-government, and many want it to be made complete. I was asked to speak upon the subject; and I discussed it with both the students and the faculty. Most of the students favoured it, but many did not. They said they were there to study and the officers to run the college, and why should they be bothered?

"Then the men of New York State for the first time were given a chance to vote at the primaries on the nomination of candidates; and only about 40 per cent. of the registered voters cared enough to go to the polls. Evidently a great many men, too, felt that they wanted someone else to do their thinking and voting for them.

"Then I saw that the difficulty went deeper. They all needed education in democracy. But no one proposed to take the ballot away from the men who did not want to use it." . . . . . .

"Another reason I have for believing in equal Suffrage is that I want to see some things done. There are some pressing matters which have waited a long time. When women have the ballot I think we are going to get some things done quicker, because of the directness and sincerity of purpose which I believe will be part of our contribution to the work of government." . . . . . .

"Everyone pays taxes, direct or indirect. Every working mother who goes to the shop to buy a pound of butter, or flour, or tea, pays a tax as well as the man who owns the grocery store." . . . . . .

"We have a workhouse in New York, with six or seven hundred women in it. They do not work, and therefore it is called the workhouse. We have had it for 65 years. The women have no work and no outdoor exercise, and naturally they get nervous and quarrel. For 65 years they have worn dresses made of bed-ticking, gathered around them at the waist as tightly as possible, and standing out like cheeses. I asked why this was, and I was told that it was because it had always been so.

"In the penitentiary I found 1,400 men and about a hundred women. The women had nothing to do but to clean their cells and make their own beds; the rest of the time they sat and twiddled their thumbs, while the men prisoners did the cooking and all the other work, and even made the clothes for the women prisoners to wear. I asked why, and was told that it was because it had always been so. If human nature is so conservative as all that, it is no wonder that women have not yet been given suffrage!" . . . . . .

"Not long ago I visited California. I was in Pasadena on election day. One polling place was in the parlour of the Methodist Church. There sat a comfortable looking woman of middle age, and on either side of her a young man who from his age might have been her son, and these three were the clerks of election. There was a missionary meeting being held in the church at the same time, and the women of the church served a lunch. A woman would bring her chicken, or loaf of cake, or whatever her contribution was, and go down below and leave it, and then come into the parlour and chat a little, and cast her vote. There was nothing more improper than that. At the other polling place I saw women coming to vote wheeling a baby, and with a market basket hanging on the baby carriage. Sometimes one woman would take care of two or three baby carriages while the other mothers went in to vote. These were a new kind of watchers at the polls. Later in the day they began to gather up those women who had not voted. An auto would come in with two young women carrying babies. Probably it was the first time those babies had ever got a ride. It was all so simple, natural and logical that I wondered how anybody could ever have expected disaster to result from it." K. B. DAVIS.

VINDICATING HER BIRTHRIGHT.

Madame Thoumaian, the well-known peace advocate, who is of Swiss parentage, is married to an Armenian, who was tortured and condemned to death by the Turkish authorities and declared innocent by a British Consular report. Like all the other protesting Armenians she is held to be a Turkish subject, and Madame Thoumaian, like other wives, however unwilling, is obliged to take her husband's nationality, though she regards herself as a Swiss. As we have already reported, she was arrested and fined £20 for refusing to register herself as an alien enemy. She has stoutly refused to pay, and on February 4th Mr. McKenna stated that he had advised the magistrate to remit her fine. We present our congratulations to Madame Thoumaian on the result of her determined stand.

MORE MILK.

The heavy cost of keeping up our Milk for Mothers and Babies, our Restaurants and all our other relief work, is causing us great anxiety. We are therefore arranging for a West London Street Collecting Day, on Wednesday, Feb. 17th. Please write volunteering to take a box.

THE SCANDAL OF CHILD LABOUR.

On February 5th, the E.L.F.S. held a successful meeting in Old Kent Road. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Bouvier were the speakers.

After the meeting, a soldier's wife asked whether she ought not to receive a grant of some kind, as she had had to keep in underclothing her son who was in camp, and had to do all his washing for him. In addition to her labour she had spent a good deal in the postage of his weekly parcels. She had to work for her living and could earn very little. "It is a great strain on poor mothers," she said.

Sunday, Feb. 21—Meeting Women's Hall, Poplar.
Sunday, Feb. 28—Lady Emily Lutyens—Women's Hall, Bow.

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